

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly newscast

# February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013

Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Barbara Edmondson

### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. attempt	a) a trial to determine if a person can be released from jail and trusted to return for the main trial later
	2. fire	b) lawyers representing the law
	3. evidence	c) an artificial body part
	4. prosecutors	d) to be planned; to think about before doing
	5. intentionally	e) to shoot a gun
	6. bail hearing	f) to wrongly identify
	7. premeditated	g) a strong and light material used to make things
	8. mistook	h) to try
	9. carbon fibre	i) proof; information that proves something
	10. prosthetic	j) on purpose

**Extra definition to help you understand the reading:**

**intruder** – a stranger entering someone’s private property

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. A new lead police officer will replace Hilton Botha in the Oscar Pistorius _____.	a) murder case in South Africa b) investigation
2. Hilton Botha is facing attempted murder charges because _____.	a) he may have started a minibus on fire in 2011 b) he may have fired shots at a minibus in 2011
3. _____ gave evidence earlier this week in the bail hearing for _____.	a) Oscar Pistorius / Hilton Botha b) Hilton Botha / Oscar Pistorius
4. Oscar Pistorius is charged for _____ at his home in Pretoria.	a) intentionally killing his girlfriend b) dating model Reeva Steenkamp
5. Pistorius says the shooting was an accident because _____.	a) he thought Steenkamp was an intruder b) it was not premeditated
6. Pistorius is known as the “Blade Runner” because _____.	a) he ran so fast when trying to escape b) of his carbon fibre prosthetic legs

### Discussion Question

What would you do if there was an intruder in your home or on your property?

## News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

**Vocabulary** - Read the definitions below, and then put the sentences in the correct order. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Words and Definitions
presume – to believe, to think something is true
drowned – to die in the water
capsize – a ship that turns over and sinks in the water
hurricane – a huge storm that comes inland from the ocean
halibut – a type of fish
extended – for a long time

1. weather next I the month. warmer be presume will

I presume \_\_\_\_\_.

2. drown. You don't life so must you wear a jacket

\_\_\_\_\_

3. If is may sea there ships a at hurricane capsize.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. I We and went caught on a halibut. fishing and trip a

\_\_\_\_\_

5. summer. an I vacation have this extended

\_\_\_\_\_

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

## Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. How many fishermen are missing off the coast of Nova Scotia?
2. What do people think happened to the men?
3. What does the military say happened to their boat Miss Alley?
4. Why does the military believe this?
5. What was the temperature of the ocean on Sunday night?
6. Where were they men going?

## Discussion Question

Have you ever been on a boat? What safety steps should you take before getting on a boat?

### News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

rank (position in the military)	platoon (a group of soldiers)
explosive device (violent weapon, like a bomb)	court martial (a military trial for soldiers)
bodily harm (criminally causing injury)	negligent(not taking proper care)
plead guilty (an answer by an accused person in in court)	

### Extra definition to help you understand the reading:

**Reserve soldier** – to be a part time soldier and called on during an emergency

**Commander** - person in charge of a group of soldiers

1. The drunk driver is charged with causing \_\_\_\_\_ as well as dangerous driving.
2. I think the daycare was \_\_\_\_\_ when they left the children outside alone.
3. In Canada, a \_\_\_\_\_ is usually made up of 24 men/women.
4. After the war in my country, there were a number of \_\_\_\_\_ buried all over the country.
5. The soldiers will face a \_\_\_\_\_ because they did not store the weapons safely.
6. My grandfather was in the army and his \_\_\_\_\_ was sergeant.
7. I heard that the man accused of the robbery will \_\_\_\_\_.

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ The reserve soldier Darryl Watts will be sent to jail.
2. \_\_\_\_ Watts will be able to keep his rank of major.
3. \_\_\_\_ Watts now works as a firefighter.
4. \_\_\_\_ The original case is about the death of Corporal Josh Baker.
5. \_\_\_\_ Baker died during fighting in Kandahar.
6. \_\_\_\_ Watts is the only soldier who will be charged in Baker's death.

### Discussion Question

Do you think that soldiers should be tried for accidents that happen during military training?

## Language Focus

### Reported Speech

We use reported speech to explain what another person says or believes.

When we report what another person says we often use 'reporting verbs' like **say, tell, explain, report, believe, thought, ask...** etc.

If the verb is in the present tense we don't usually need to change the verb. Remember we do need to change the subject *I* to *he/she/you or the person's name* and then change the verb appropriately.

Julie: "I love English."

Teacher: Julie says **she** loves English.

When we are reporting what another person says and the verb is in the past tense we may choose to leave the verb in the past tense. Here are two examples from our listening:

Prosecutors: "Pistorius intentionally **killed** Steenkamp."

Reporter: "Prosecutors **say** Pistorius intentionally **killed** Steenkamp at his home in Pretoria and have charged him with premeditated murder.

Pistorius: "I **mistook** Steenkamp..." Reporter: "Pistorius **says he mistook** Steenkamp for an intruder and that the shooting was accidental."

Often we when we are reporting what another person says we change the verb tense. We change the verb tense backwards – that it moving it one tense in the past.

tense	direct speech	reported speech
present simple → simple past	"I like school."	<b>Zahra</b> said she <b>liked</b> school.
present continuous → past continuous	"I am visiting my sister."	<b>She</b> said she <b>was visiting</b> her sister.
past simple → past perfect	"I saw a movie last night."	<b>Dongmin</b> said he <b>had seen</b> a movie last night.
past continuous → past perfect continuous	"I was studying yesterday."	<b>She</b> said she <b>had been studying</b> yesterday.
present perfect → past perfect	"I have not done my homework"	<b>Rosa</b> said she <b>had not done</b> her homework.
will → would can → could	"I will see you tomorrow."	<b>The teacher</b> said he <b>would see</b> me tomorrow.
would, could, might, must → No change	"I must finish this assignment."	<b>John</b> said he <b>must</b> finish this assignment.

Try using reported speech to explain some valuable advice one of your friends gave you.

## Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	FEBRUARY 22 <sup>ND</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Carla Beynon. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for February 22 <sup>nd</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	There is a new lead police officer in the Oscar Pistorius murder case in South Africa. That decision was made after it became known that the first lead officer, Hilton Botha, was facing attempted murder charges himself. He and two other officers are said to have fired shots at a minibus in 2011. Botha gave evidence earlier this week in the bail hearing for Oscar Pistorius, who is charged in the shooting death of his girlfriend, model Reeva Steenkamp. Prosecutors say Pistorius intentionally killed Steenkamp at his home in Pretoria and have charged him with premeditated murder. Pistorius says he mistook Steenkamp for an intruder and that the shooting was accidental. Pistorius is known as the "Blade Runner" for his carbon fibre prosthetic legs.	0:10
Story 2	Five fishermen are presumed drowned off the coast of Nova Scotia. The military says their 13-metre fishing boat Miss Ally capsized Sunday night about 120 kilometres from shore as it was tossed by 10 metre waves whipped up by winds of near hurricane force. The ocean temperature at the time was between 2 and 4 degrees Celsius. The men were on an extended trip to catch halibut before the boat went down.	1:15
Story 3	A Calgary reserve soldier was sentenced on Wednesday for his role in the death of a soldier in Afghanistan 3 years ago. Darryl Watts will not go to jail, but a military judge reduced his rank from Major to Lieutenant. Watts, who is a full-time firefighter in Calgary, was the platoon commander when an explosive device killed 24-year-old Cpl. Josh Baker during training just north of Kandahar city in February 2010. A court-martial in December found him guilty of causing bodily harm and negligent performance of duty. Two other soldiers were charged in connection with the explosion. One pleaded guilty, the other was found guilty just last week and will be sentenced next month.	1:53

## Answer keys

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
<b>h</b>	1. attempt	a) a trial to determine if a person can be released from jail and trusted to return for the main trial later
<b>e</b>	2. fire	b) lawyers representing the law
<b>i</b>	3. evidence	c) an artificial body part
<b>b</b>	4. prosecutors	d) to be planned; to think about before doing
<b>j</b>	5. intentionally	e) to shoot a gun
<b>a</b>	6. bail hearing	f) to wrongly identify
<b>d</b>	7. premeditated	g) a strong and light material used to make things
<b>f</b>	8. mistook	h) to try
<b>g</b>	9. carbon fibre	i) proof; information that proves something
<b>c</b>	10. prosthetic	j) on purpose

#### Listening

1. A new lead police officer will replace Hilton Botha in the Oscar Pistorius _____.	a) murder case in South Africa b) investigation.
2. Hilton Botha is facing attempted murder charges because _____.	a) he may have started a minibus on fire in 2011 b) he may have fired shots at a minibus in 2011
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4. Oscar Pistorius is charged for _____ at his home in Pretoria.	a) intentionally killing his girlfriend b) dating model Reeva Steenkamp
5. Pistorius says the shooting was an accident because _____.	a) he thought Steenkamp was an intruder b) it was not premeditated
6. Pistorius is known as the "Blade Runner" because _____.	a) he ran so fast when trying to escape b) of his carbon fibre prosthetic legs

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary

1. I presume the weather will be warmer next month.
2. You must wear a life jacket so you don't drown.
3. If there is a hurricane ships at sea may capsize.
4. We went on a fishing trip and I caught a halibut.
5. I have an extended vacation this summer.

## Listening

1. How many fishermen are missing off the coast of Nova Scotia? *4 fishermen*
2. What do people think happened to the men? *They presume the fishermen drowned.*
3. What does the military say happened to their boat Miss Alley? *The boat Miss Ally capsized about 120 kilometres from shore.*
4. Why does the military believe this? *Because there were 10metre waves created by strong, near hurricane force winds.*
5. What was the temperature of the ocean on Sunday night? *The ocean temperature was between 2 and 4 degrees.*
6. Where were they men going? *The men were on an extended trip to catch halibut.*

## News story 3

### Vocabulary

1. The drunk driver is charged with causing bodily harm, as well as dangerous driving.
2. I think the daycare was negligent when they left the children outside alone.
3. In Canada, a platoon is usually made up of 24 men/women.
4. After the war in my country, there were a number of explosive devices buried all over the country.
5. The soldiers will face a court martial because they did not store the weapons safely.
6. My grandfather was in the army and his rank was sergeant.
7. I heard that the man accused of the robbery will plead guilty.

## Listening

1. F The reserve soldier Darryl Watts will be sent to jail.
2. F Watts will be able to keep his rank of major.
3. T Watts now works as a firefighter.
4. T The original case is about the death of Corporal Josh Baker.
5. F Baker died during fighting in Kandahar.
6. F Watts is the only soldier who will be charged in Baker's death.